COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

# Office Hours:
# COVID-19 Planning and Response

September 25, 2020

# Housekeeping

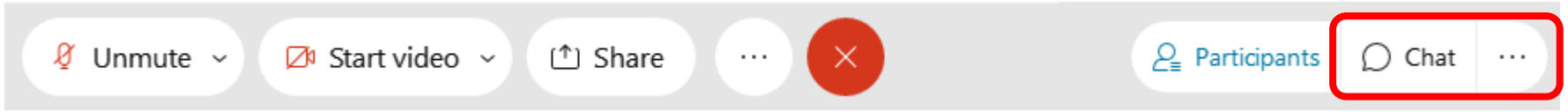
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-webinars-and-office-hours

- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:

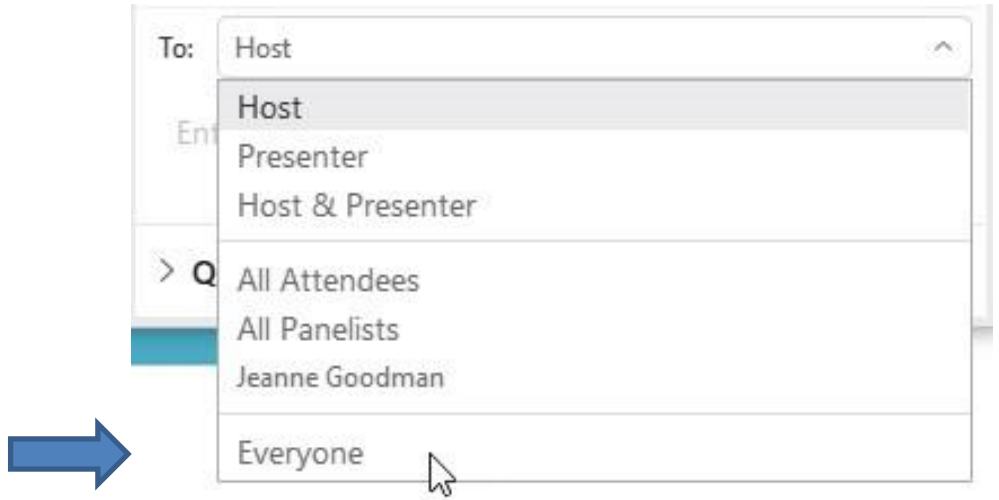
  1-855-797-9485  Access code: 610 976 677

# Chat Feature




Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to **Everyone**



# Speakers & Resource Advisors

## Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
  - Norm Suchar
  - Karen DeBlasio
  - Brett Esders
  - Marlisa Grogan
  - Abby Miller
  - William Snow

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Emily Mosites, PhD MPH- COVID-19 At-Risk Population Task Force, Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness

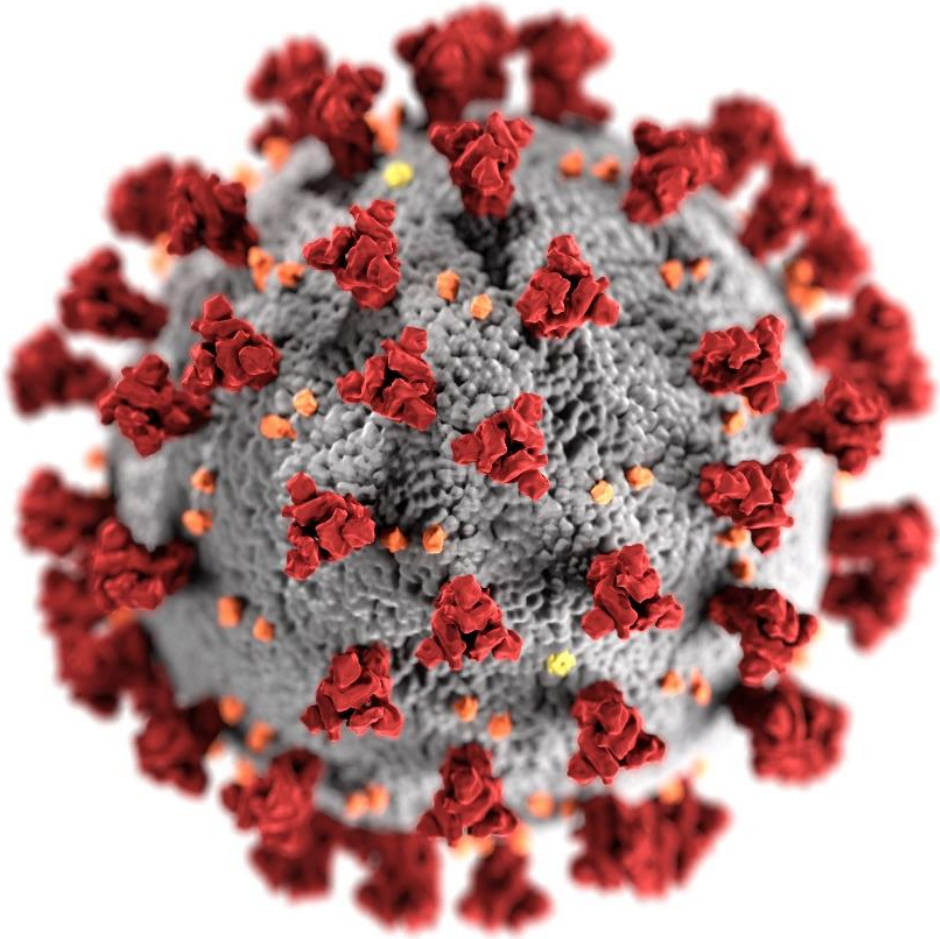
# Speakers & Resource Advisors

## Montgomery County, MD

- Amanda Harris, MSW, MPP Chief of Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Tamar Epner, Program Manager, Planning, Analytics, and Customer Service

# COVID-19 and Homelessness

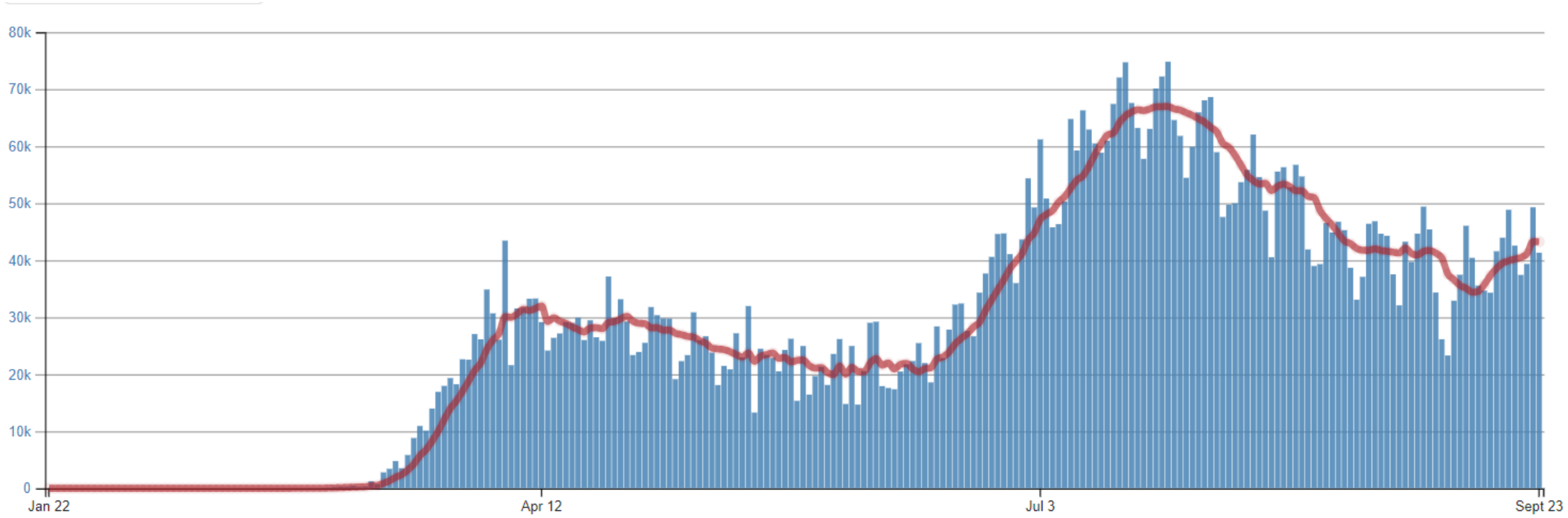
## Updates



Homelessness Unit
Disproportionately Affected Populations Team
COVID-19 Response

cdc.gov/coronavirus

# 6.9 million cases reported in the United States*




*as of 9/24/20

# COVID-19 testing at homeless shelters, as of 9/24/20

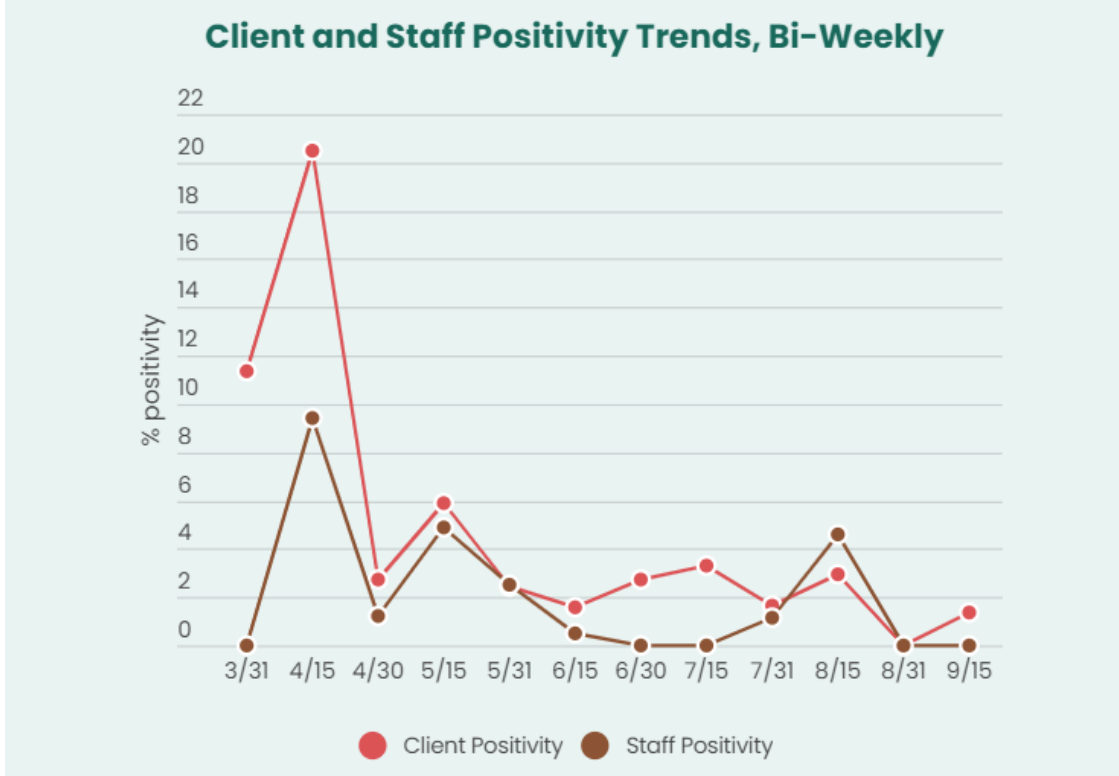
245
Total Testing Events Submitted

10,166
Total Clients Tested

8.13%
Client COVID-19 Positivity Rate

2,109
Total Staff Tested

4.27%
Staff COVID-19 Positivity Rate




Visit the NHCHC *Universal COVID-19 Testing at Homeless Service Sites* dashboard online for more information.

# CDC guidance related to homelessness and COVID-19

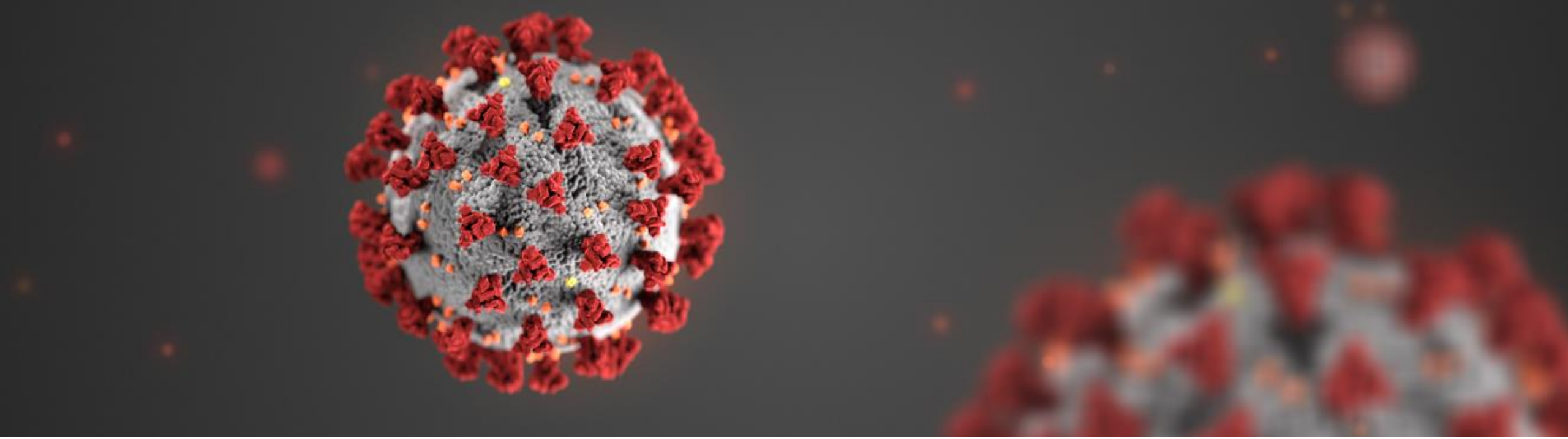
## Ongoing Mitigation Guidance

Guidance to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19

- People experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Homeless service providers
- Checklist for Homeless Service Providers During Community Re-opening
- Testing in homeless shelters and encampments
- Considerations for state and local health departments
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- COVID-19 Infection Control Inventory and Planning (ICIP) Tool for Homeless Service Providers [PDF – 426 KB]

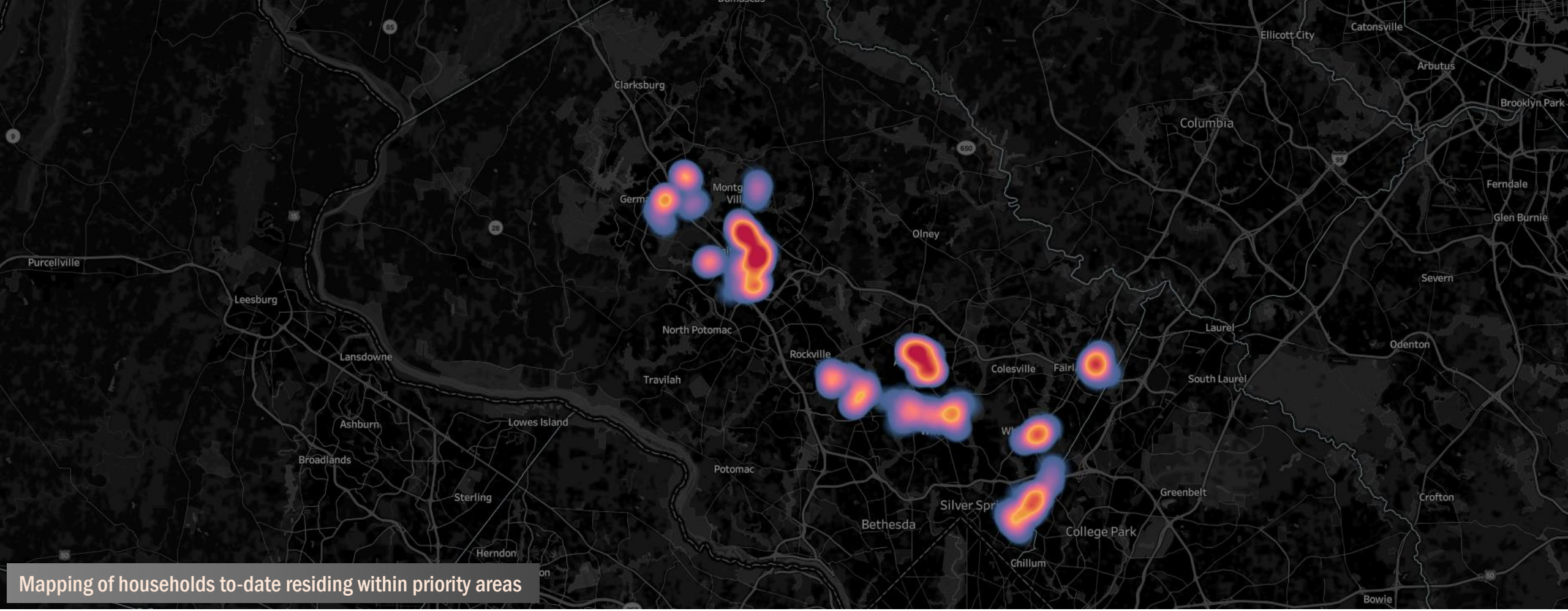
## Prevention and Support

- CDC/EPA cleaning and disinfection guidance
- Screening for symptoms
- FAQs for homeless shelters
- Extra precautions for people experiencing homelessness
- Homeless Shelter Worker Training [PDF – 1 MB]
- Dashboard on Universal COVID-19 Testing at Homeless Service Sites



For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.




Mapping of households to-date residing within priority areas

# COVID-19 HOMELESS PREVENTION INDEX

## PROMOTING EQUITY AND NEED-BASED PRIORITIZATION FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

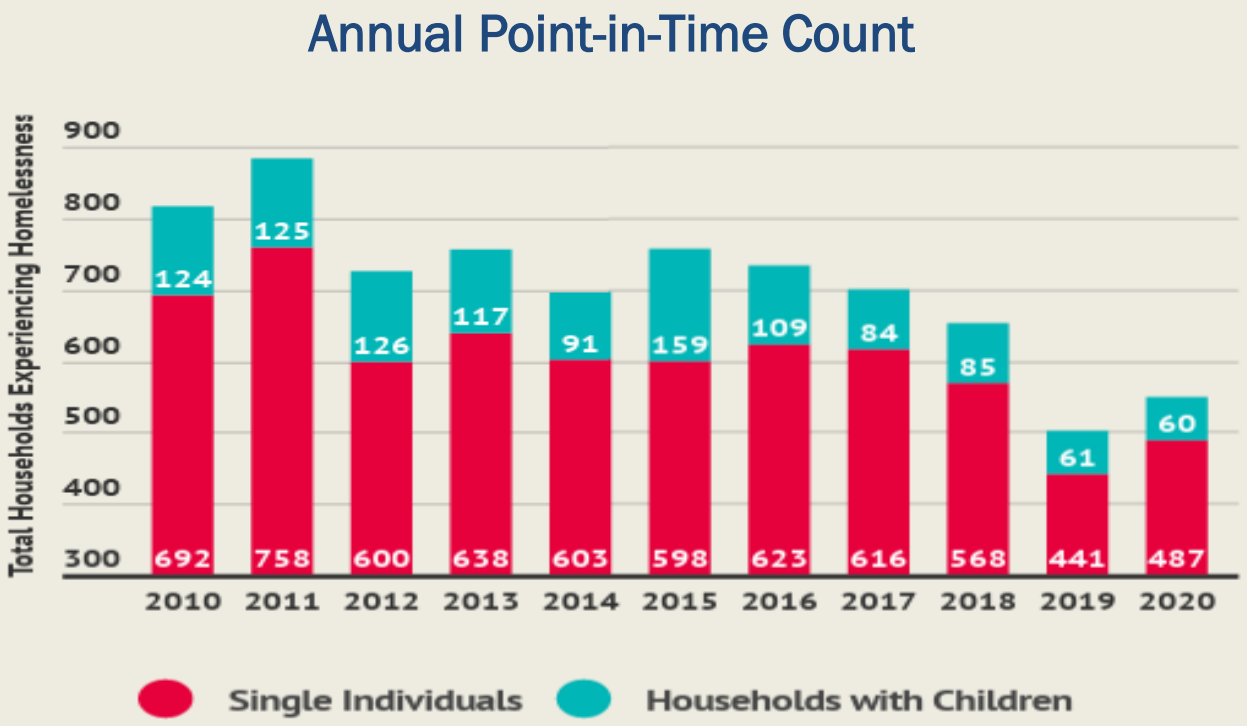
Housing for All
A Stronger Montgomery

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND > DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES > SERVICES TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS (SEPH)

# Services to End and Prevent Homelessness

- Acts as the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead
- Oversees homeless crisis response system, permanent housing programs, and prevention
- Core Values
  - *Housing First and Person-Centered*
  - *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
  - *Collaboration across the Continuum*
  - *Data and Results Based Decisions*
  - *Continuous Change and Improvement*

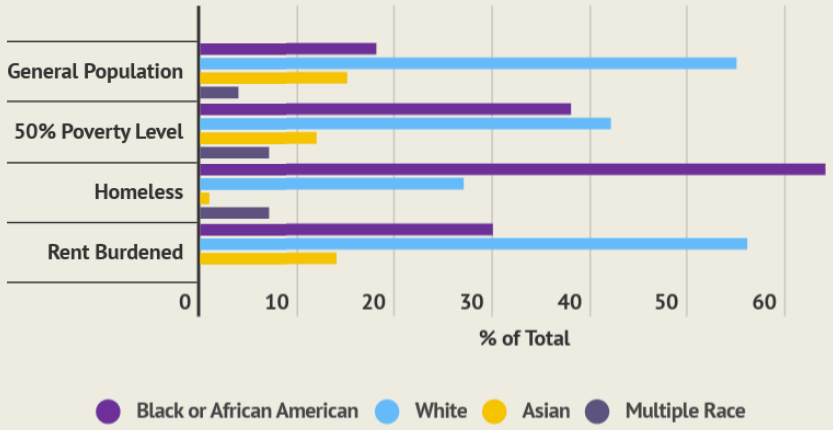
# Homelessness in Montgomery County



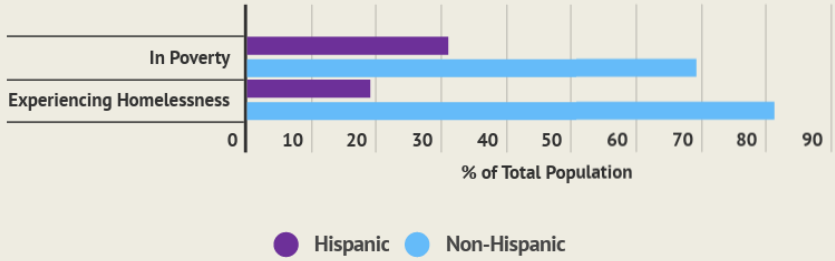

- Achieved functional zero for Veterans in 2015
- Reduced chronic homelessness by more than 90%
- Reduced overall homelessness by 33% over the last ten years

# Racial Disparities in the Homeless Continuum

## Distribution of Race




## Distribution of Ethnicity



# COC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Use of CARES Act Funding

# Effective Use of Resources

| FEMA | Coronavirus Relief Funds | ESG | CDBG | Local |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-congregate Shelter | $20M for Eviction/ Homeless Prevention | $6.2 M primarily used for Rapid Rehousing | $2M for rental assistance | $3.5 M for diversion, rapid exit, and eviction prevention |

# Eviction Prevention Phase One: Lessons Learned

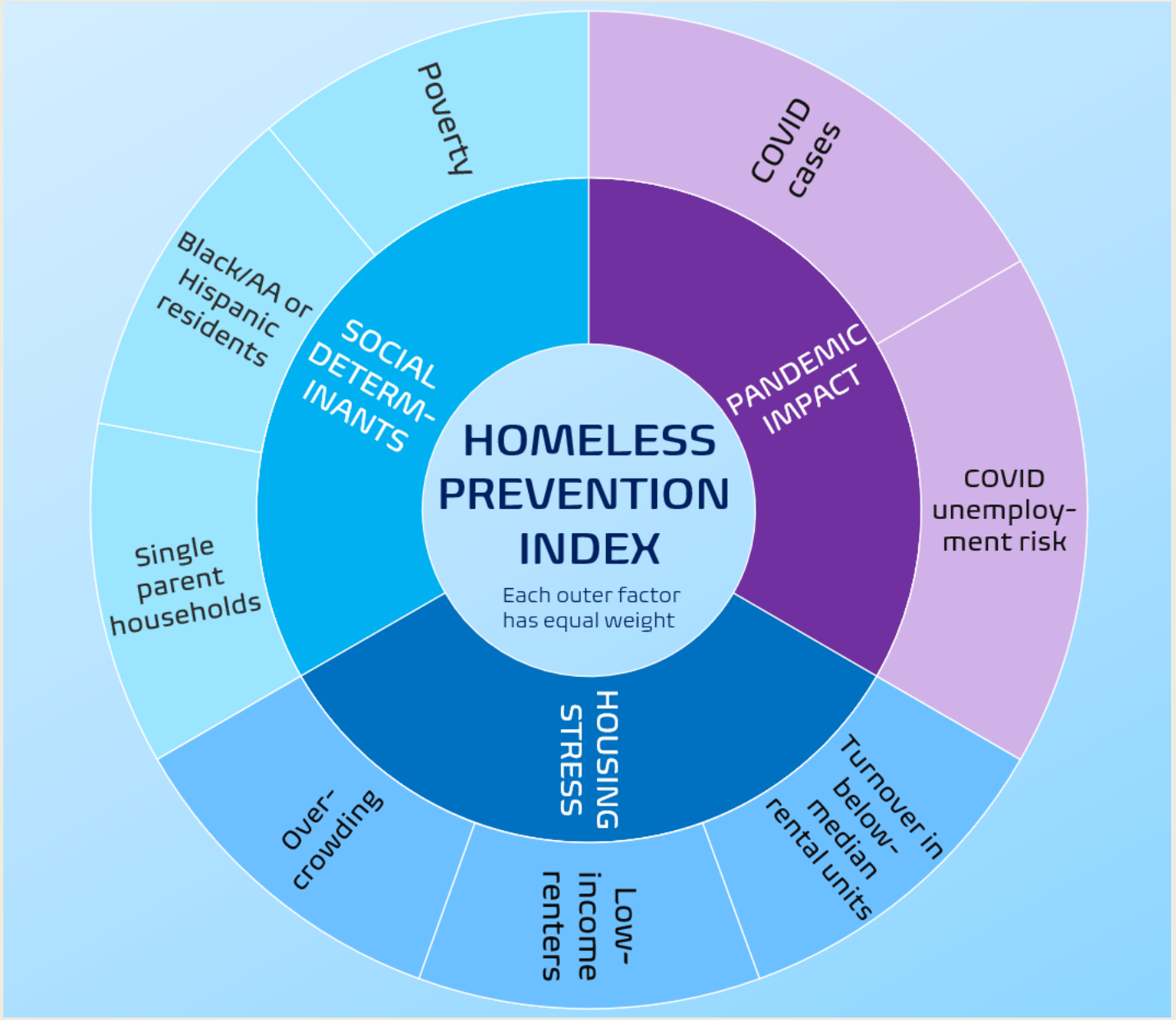
- CDBG Challenges
  - *Overly complicated application*
  - *Low number of applicants*

- Covid Rent Relief Program: Phase One (local funding)
  - *Disparities in applicants – more than 70% Latinx*
  - *Overly complicated benefit calculations*
  - *Time intensive*

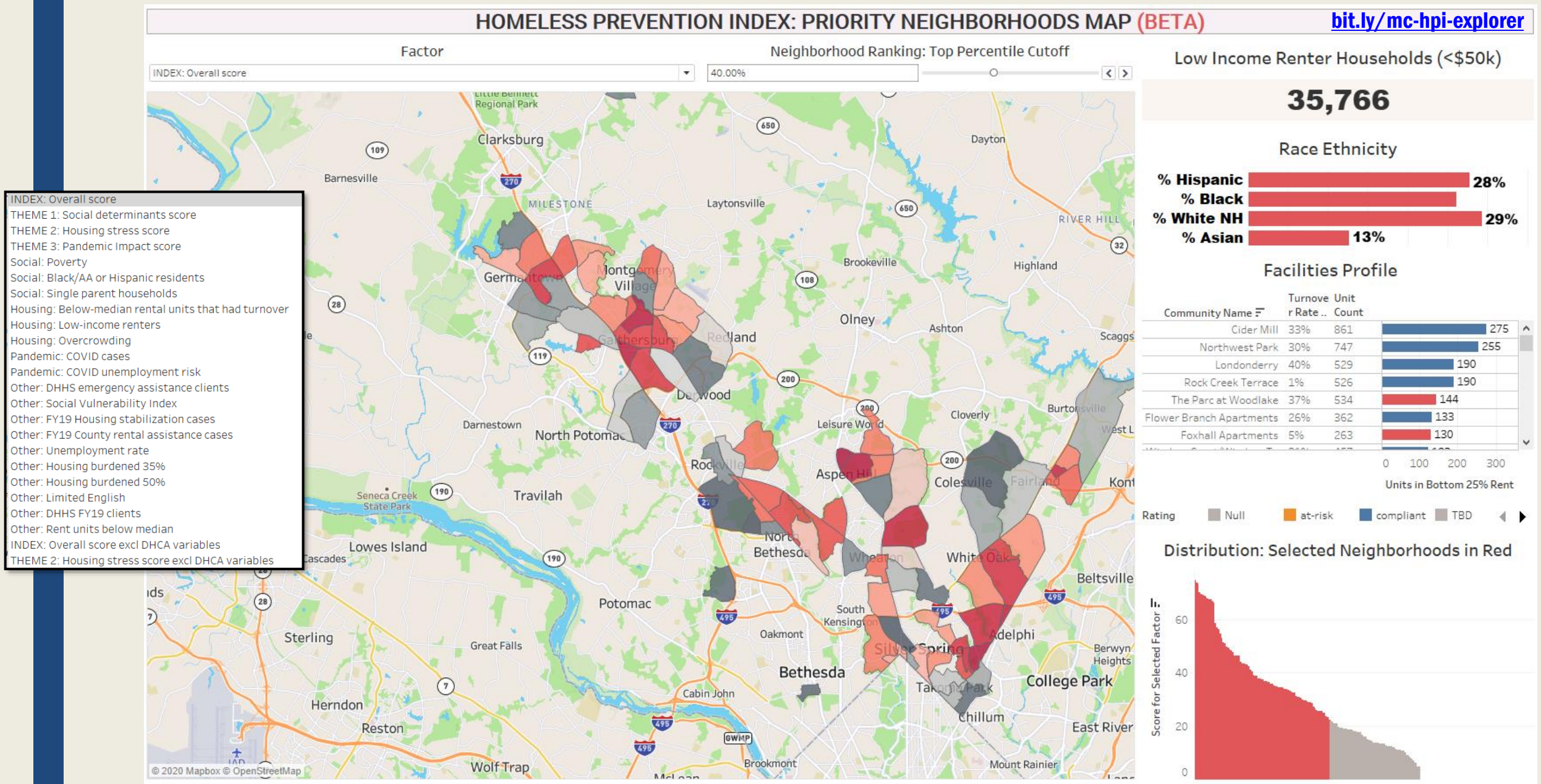
# EVICTION/ HOMELESS PREVENTION PHASE TWO

Using data to target those most likely to experience homelessness

# HOMELESS PREVENTION INDEX



# INTERACTIVE DECISION-MAKING TOOL



# INDICATOR SELECTION

- TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES:

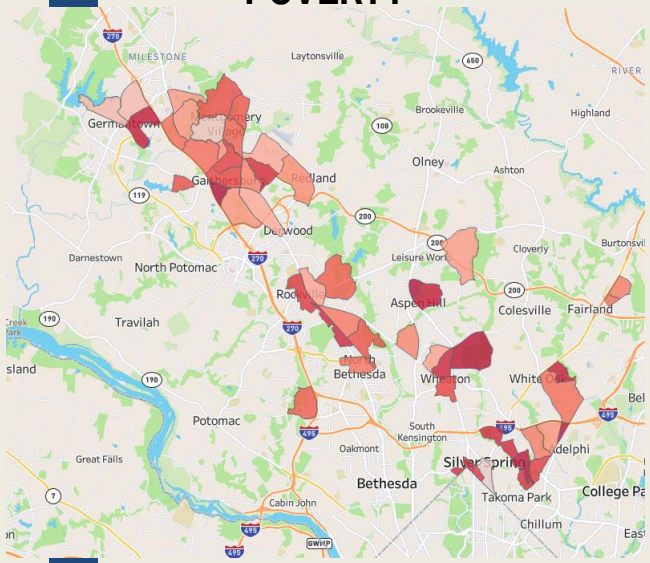
  ► Informed by national research
  ► Localized to county characteristics
  ► Simple to communicate, avoiding redundant factors
  ► Statistically sound

- INDICATORS CONSIDERED BUT NOT INCLUDED:

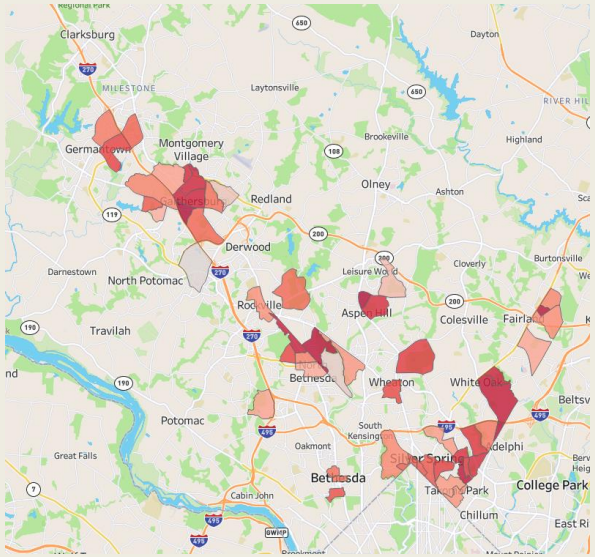
  - Percent of persons who speak English less than well
  - Unemployment rate across all occupations
  - Eviction rates
  - Percent of renters across all incomes
  - Percent of renter-occupied households whose gross rent is 30-50% of household income
  - Percent Hispanic/% Black/AA residents as separate measures
  - DHHS administrative data

# HIGH CORRELATION AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL INDICATORS

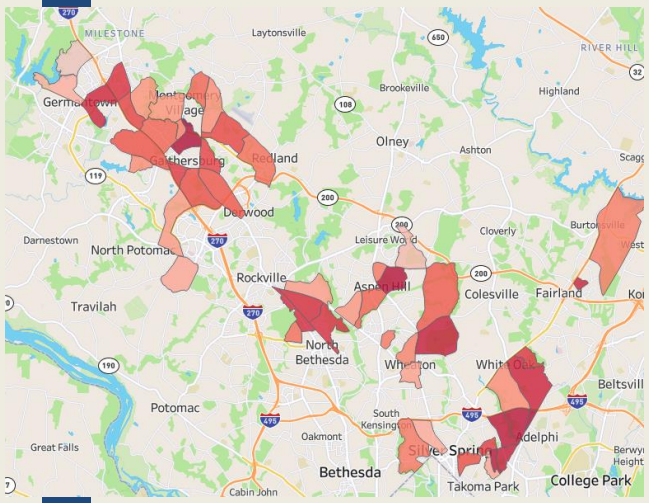
## POVERTY



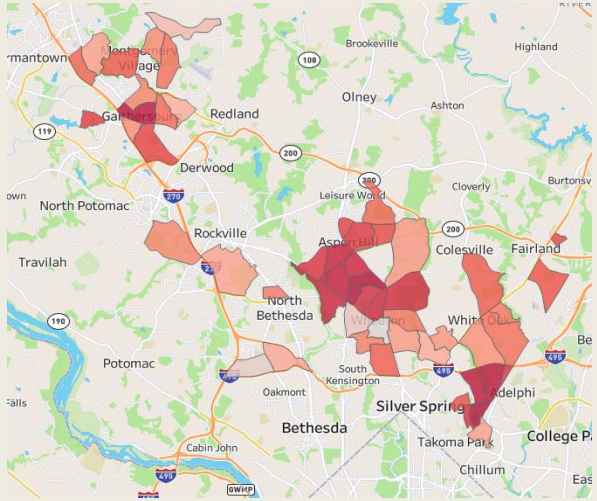

## LOW INCOME RENTERS




## OVERCROWDING




## COVID CASES PER CAPITA



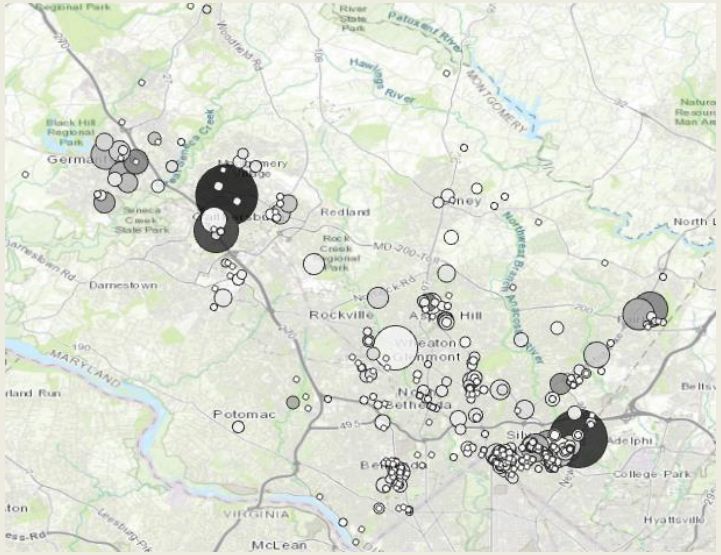

## HIGH CORRELATION AMONG THE INDICATORS

| | POVERTY | SINGLE PARENT HOUSE-HOLDS | BLACK/AA OR HISPANIC RESIDENTS | OVER-CROWDING | LOW-INCOME RENTERS | TURNOVER IN BELOW-MEDIAN RENTAL UNITS | COVID CASES | COVID UNEMPLOY-MENT RISK |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| POVERTY | 1 | | | | | | | |
| SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS | 0.53 | 1 | | | | | | |
| BLACK/AA OR HISPANIC RESIDENTS | 0.66 | 0.8 | 1 | | | | | |
| OVERCROWDING | 0.7 | 0.62 | 0.7 | 1 | | | | |
| LOW-INCOME RENTERS | 0.78 | 0.55 | 0.62 | 0.72 | 1 | | | |
| TURNOVER IN BELOW-MEDIAN RENTAL UNITS | 0.56 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.57 | 0.67 | 1 | | |
| COVID CASES | 0.55 | 0.57 | 0.7 | 0.58 | 0.49 | 0.35 | 1 | |
| COVID UNEMPLOYMENT RISK | 0.57 | 0.6 | 0.78 | 0.59 | 0.45 | 0.31 | 0.73 | 1 |

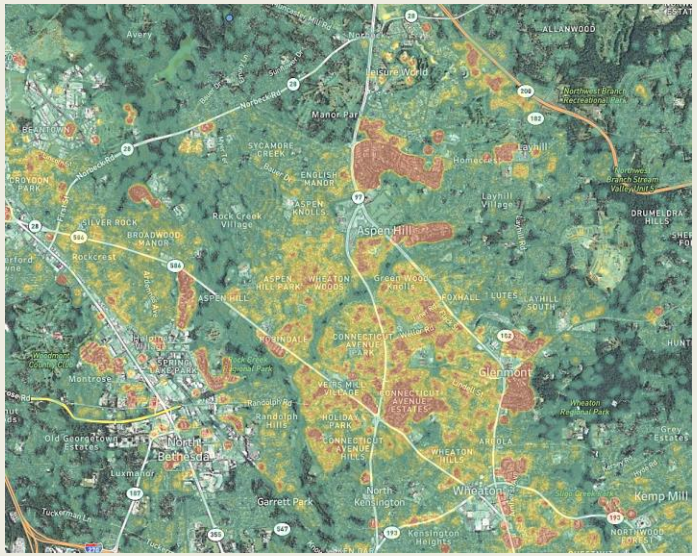
# VALIDATIONS

## A. REVIEW WITH REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER DIRECTORS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

## B. DEP OF HOUSING FACILITIES LEVEL DATA

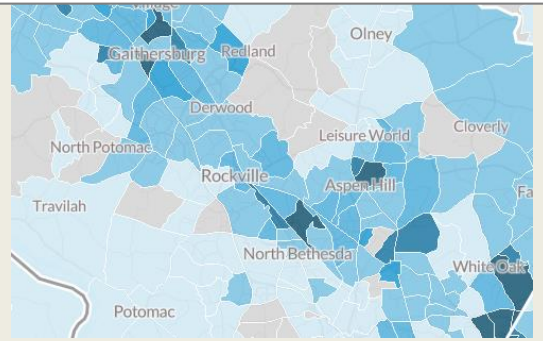



## C. CONCENTRATION OF DHHS CLIENTS

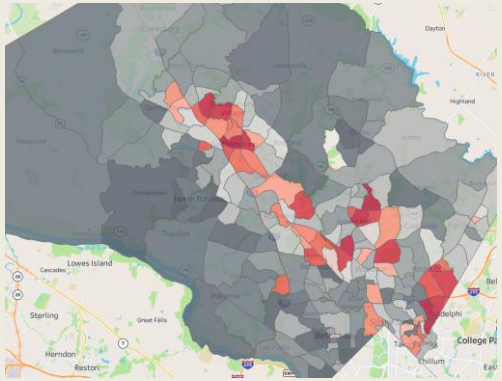



## D. URBAN INSTITUTE PRIORITIZATION INDEX (AUG 25)

Where to Prioritize Emergency Rental Assistance to Keep Renters in Their Homes

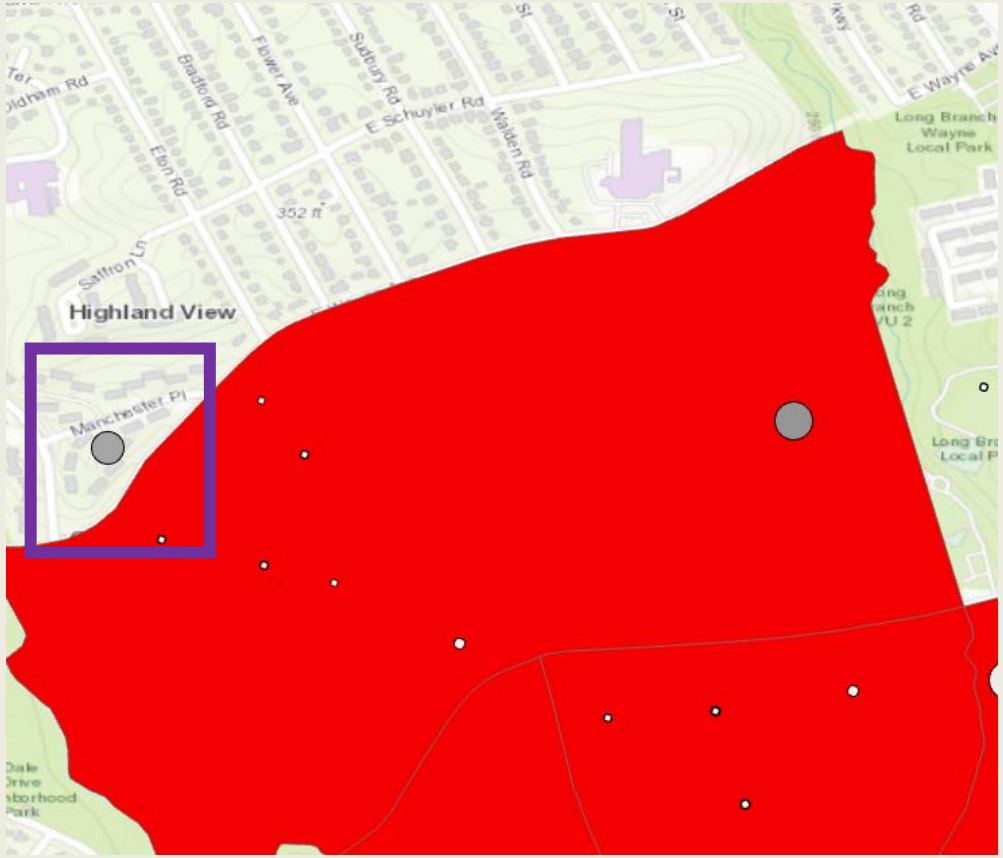



## E. CDC SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX



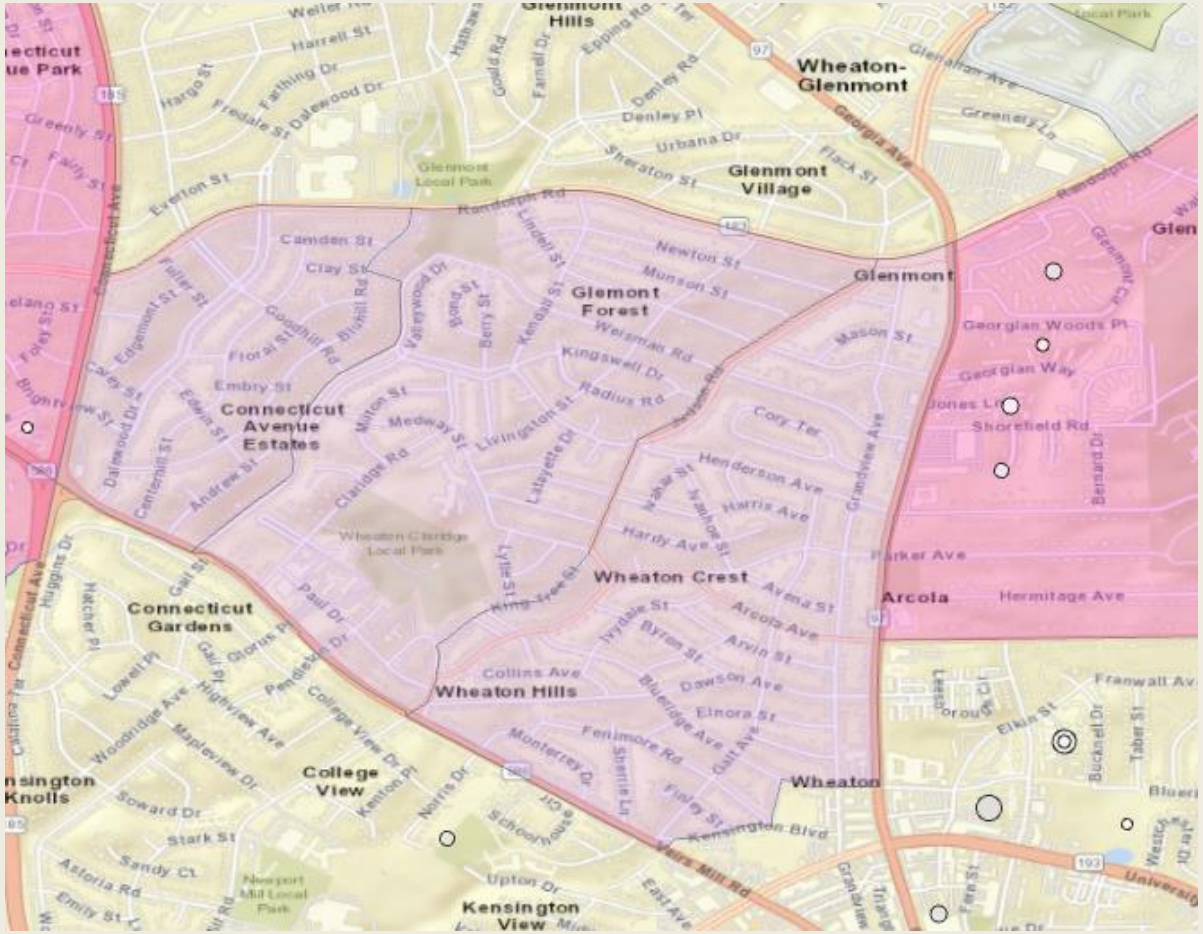
# TWO DATA-INFORMED EXPANSIONS

## 1. EXTEND HIGH-NEED TRACTS TO INCLUDE ADJACENT HIGH NEED PROPERTIES



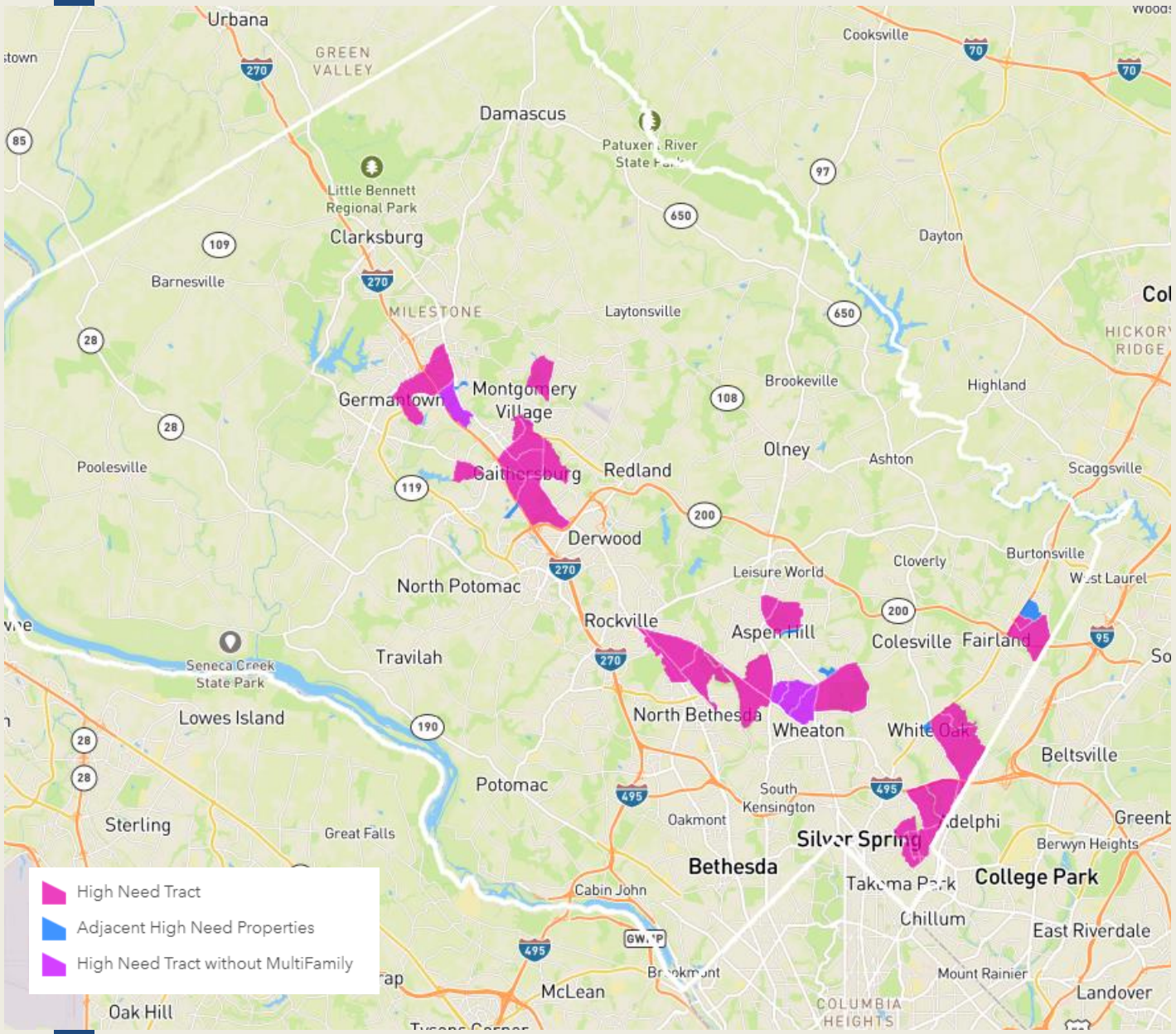

OTHER EXAMPLES INCL MIDDLE BROOK MOBILE HOME PARK

## 2. INCLUDE TRACTS THAT SCORE HIGH WITHOUT THE INDICATORS RELIANT ON MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING (CT AVE ESTATES + FOX CHAPEL)




HIGH DENSITY OF PRIVATE RENTALS OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, TOWNHOUSES, AND ROOMS

# TARGETING EFFICIENCY



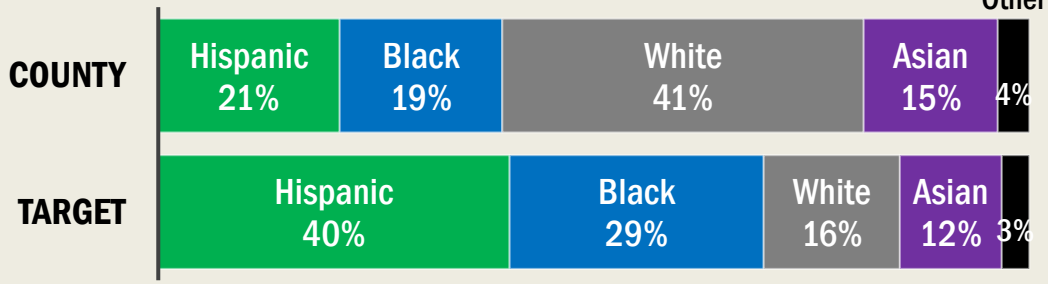

## FOCUSING ON AREAS ACCOUNTING FOR...

- 6% of land mass
- 16% of the population
- 27% of rental units

## ENABLES US TO EFFICIENTLY TARGET

- Half of low-cost rental units
- Half of low-cost rental units with turnover

| INDICATOR | COUNTY | TARGET AREAS | DIFFERENCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Poverty Rate** | 6% (County average) | 12% (tract average) | 182% of County avg |
| **Average Income** | $154,200 (County average) | $83,200 (tract average) | 54% of County avg |

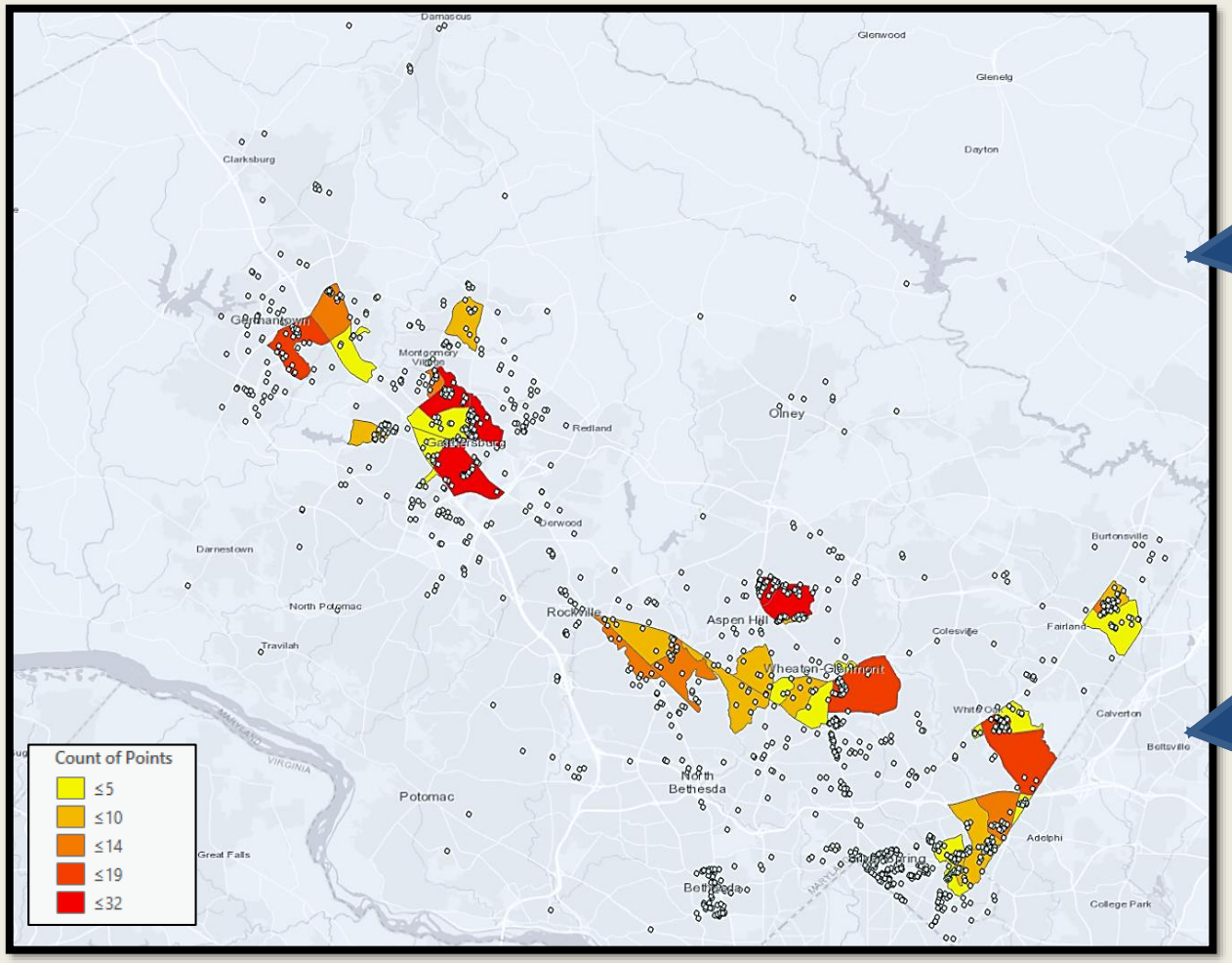



SOURCE: ESRI

# IMPLEMENTATION

- Online application available in multiple languages
- Limited documentation required
- Early engagement with organizations with the deepest reach into the community
- Bilingual staff
- Onsite outreach and assistance for properties in the target neighborhoods

# REAL-TIME OPERATIONAL USE: FIRST 1,000 APPLICATIONS




APPLICATIONS FROM HIGH NEED AREAS ARE PRIORITIZED

HIGH NEED AREAS WITH LOW NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PROVIDE FOCUS FOR OUTREACH

# HUD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPOTLIGHT

- ***IRS ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT (EIP) TOOLKIT***

# EIP Toolkit

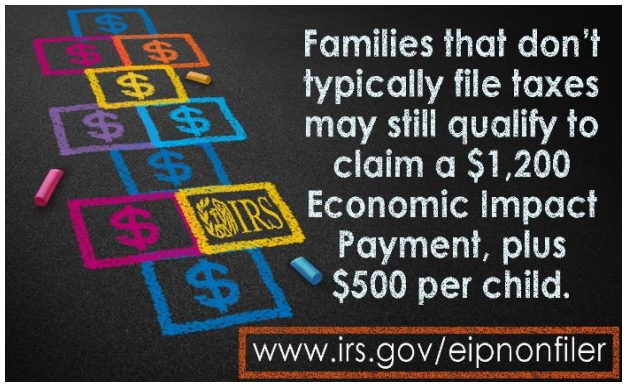
- IRS developed materials in English and Spanish urging people who don't normally file a tax return to sign up for an Economic Impact Payment by October 15th.
- Also encourage federal benefit recipients to register for an additional $500 per qualifying child payment by September 30th.
- See HUD Exchange Resource Digest for a link to all materials:

  **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**: Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments

# EIP Toolkit Content

- A step-by-step guide to using the IRS Non-Filers Tool to get an Economic Impact Payment
- A flowchart walking people through how to get an Economic Impact Payment when they don't normally file taxes
- An if/then chart showing an overview of how to get an Economic Impact Payment from the IRS
- E-posters alerting targeted populations (e.g., Social Security recipients with children; veterans benefit recipients with children) that they need to act by Sept. 30 to get their additional $500 EIP
- An updated partner toolkit with information on reaching people who still need to register for an EIP

# EIP Toolkit Content



# New Resources Posted

- COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Creating a Cultural Equity Plan: Organizational Policies and Procedures
- Maximizing Income for Rapid Rehousing Participants During COVID-19
- Staff Orientation to Racial Equity
- Strategies for Renter Protection
- Federal Rehousing Resources
- Rehousing and Coordinated Investment Planning Tool - Version 1.3
- CoC Program Project Rating and Ranking Tool
- COVID-19 Frauds and Scams: Guide for Housing Counselors

# Key Websites

**HUD:** https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/

**CDC:** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html

**NHCHC:** https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/

**USICH:** https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/

**VA:** https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp

**HRSA:** https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html

# Federal Partner Contacts

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
  www.cdc.gov/COVID19; 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636); TTY: 1-888-232-6348
- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
  HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question (AAQ) Portal

# Q & A